

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 01363 301245Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSM-05 EUR-12 HA-05
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 /084 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 921
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, IS, JO
SUBJECT: JERUSALEM POST ARTICLE ON LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO
PRIME MINISTER BEGIN

1. UNDER THE HEADLINE "CARTER SENDS 'SHARP PROTEST' TO
BEGIN ON SHILO SETTLEMENT," THE JERUSALEM POST TODAY
PUBLISHED THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE BY WOLF BLITZER, ITS
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT:
BEGIN TEXT

2. THE US HAS PROTESTED TO ISRAEL OVER PLANS TO
ESTABLISH A NEW SETTLEMENT AT SHILO ON THE WEST BANK,
AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAID YESTERDAY.

3. THE OFFICIALS CONFIRMING A REPORT IN "THE NEW
YORK TIMES" BY COLUMNIST JAMES RESTON, SAID THAT THE US
DOES NOT ACCEPT ISRAEL'S ARGUMENT THAT THE SETTLEMENT IS
"ARCHAEOLOGICAL" AND NOT POLITICAL. THE OFFICIALS ALSO
CONFIRMED THAT EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT HAS PROTESTED
OVER THE NEW SETTLEMENT.

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4. REPORTING ON THE INCIDENT YESTERDAY, RESTON SAID
THAT PRESIDENT CARTER SENT A MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER
MENACHEM BEGIN WHICH WAS BOTH SHARP AND PERSONAL: "I
DEEPLY REGRET THE EFFORT TO ESTABLISH ANOTHER ILLEGAL
SETTLEMENT ON THE WEST BANK AT SHILO. HOWEVER, I AM
CONFIDENT THAT PRIME MINISTER BEGIN WILL HONOR THE

COMMITMENT PERSONALLY MADE TO ME, AND THUS WILL NOT PERMIT THIS SETTLEMENT TO GO FORWARD."

5. SOURCES HERE SAID THAT BEGIN HAD PROMISED CARTER THAT ISRAEL WOULD LIMIT ITS SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT PLANS ON THE WEST BANK TO MILITARY CAMPS ONLY, REFRAINING FROM ESTABLISHING SETTLEMENTS OUTSIDE THE MILITARY FRAMEWORK. IN ADDITION, BEGIN IS SAID TO HAVE ASSURED CARTER THAT ISRAEL WILL MERELY EXPAND EXISTING SETTLEMENTS, RATHER THAN BUILD NEW ONES.

6. RESTON ALSO SAID THAT CARTER WAS DISAPPOINTED BY SADAT'S SURPRISE DECISION 10 DAYS AGO TO SUSPEND THE POLITICAL TALKS IN JERUSALEM. ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THE SADAT-CARTER TALKS AT CAMP DAVID, MARYLAND, LATER THIS WEEK IS TO COORDINATE AMERICAN-EGYPTIAN STRATEGY SO THAT SADAT WILL NOT DECIDE TO MAKE SUCH SURPRISE DECISIONS IN THE FUTURE.

7. ACCORDING TO RESTON, WHO WAS OBVIOUSLY BRIEFED BY A HIGH CARTER ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL, THE PRESIDENT WANTS TO CLEAR UP SOME MISUNDERSTANDINGS WITH SADAT AND CREATE A BETTER ATMOSPHERE FOR COMPROMISE AND DIRECT ISRAEL-EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATIONS LATER ON.

8. THE COLUMNIST SAID THAT CARTER WILL NOT AGREE
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TO SADAT'S DEMANDS FOR A TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO THE PRE1967 LINES-- THE ADMINISTRATION WILL SUPPORTS MINOR MODIFICATIONS IN THOSE LINES--OR FOR THE CREATION OF AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE. CARTER WILL ALSO REFUSE SADAT'S REQUEST FOR EQUALITY OF MILITARY SHIPMENTS BY THE US TO EGYPT AND ISRAEL, HE SAID.

9. "AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS CLEARLY NOT AGREEING WITH MR. BEGIN'S SUGGESTION THAT HE WILL RESPECT EGYPT'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER RECOVERED TERRITORIES PROVIDED MR. SADAT RESPECTS ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO KEEP TROOPS THERE TO PROTECT WHAT PRESIDENT CARTER CALLS THE ILLEGAL SETTLEMENTS", RESTON CONTINUED.

10. "THE GENERAL VIEW HERE IS THAT A NATION CANNOT BE 'SOVEREIGN' IF IT IS OCCUPIED BY FOREIGN TROOPS," HE NOTED. END TEXT.
LEWIS

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